

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 IO-10 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 ARA-06 /067 W

----- 094030

P R 101153Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5579

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0958

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS, XF

SUBJ: IDF CHIEF OF STAFF GUR COMMENTS ON

LEBANON-SYRIA BORDER ISTUATION

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, IDF CHIEF OF STAFF GUR TOLD US FEBRUARY 9 THAT GOI HAS NO SPECIAL THEORY TO EXPLAIN RECENT QUIET ON ISRAEL-LEBANESE FRONTIER. ISRAELIS ARE PLEASED WITH PRESENT LULL AND HOPE, BUT DO NOT EXPECT, THAT IT WILL CONTINUE. GUR SAID ISRAELIS ASSUME THAT THEIR RETALIATORY ACTIVITY OF PAST WEEKS HAD ITS INTENDED EFFECT OF COOLING THINGS OFF. HE THOUGHT THAT PLO HAD ALSO NOT WISHED TO COMPLICATE THINGS BEFORE LAST WEEK'S ARAB DEFENSE LEAGUE CONFERENCE IN CAIRO. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT REPORTED DISSENSION IN PLO RANKS HAD MUCH TO DO WITH PRESENT QUIET.

2. GUR ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO TRUTH IN REPORTS OF SOME KIND OF "TRUCE" BETWEEN IDF AND PLO. "ALL WE TOLD PEOPLE ON OTHER SIDE WAS THAT IF THEY STOPPED SHOOTING,

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WE WOULD STOP HITTING THEM BACK."

3. ASKED FOR ASSESSMENT OF REPORTS THAT NUMBERS OF FOREIGN TROOPS (SYRIAN, CUBANS, ETC) WERE SAID TO BE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, GUR AGREED THERE WERE SOME FORCES IN AREA, BUT IDF DID NOT YET HAVE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO REACH ANY CONCLUSION. ESTIMATES, HE SAID, RAN FROM 100 UP TO 5,000 MEN.

4. IDF, HE SAID, WILL BE ALERT TO ANY PLO ACTIONS ON BORDER TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH SECRETARY'S VISIT.

KEATING

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NNN

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